

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated December 21, 2005. Claims 1, 3-6, 18-23 and 27-30 are now pending.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 2 contains allowable subject matter. In this regard, the subject matter of allowable claim 2 has been added to independent claims 1 and 4. Thus, claims 1, 3-6, and 18-23 are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 27 requires that "the protruding member extends outwardly from a body of the sulky so that at least a distal end of the protruding member defines an angle θ of from about 30 to 70 degrees with the vertical pivot axis of the sulky; and wherein the protruding member of the sulky is directly coupled to the spring-biased latch when the sulky is folded up in a stowed position, but the protruding member of the sulky is not directly coupled to the spring-biased latch when the sulky is in a deployed position during normal sulky operation when the sulky is trailing behind the mower." For purposes of example and without limitation, Figs. 2-3 of the instant application illustrate that the protruding member (e.g., 87) extends outwardly from a body of the sulky so that at least a distal end of the protruding member (e.g., 87) defines an angle θ of from about 30 to 70 degrees with the vertical pivot axis of the sulky. Again, for purposes of example only and without limitation, Figs. 2-3 illustrate that the protruding member (e.g., 87) of the sulky is directly coupled to the spring-biased latch when the sulky is folded up in a stowed position, and Fig. 1 illustrates that the protruding member of the sulky is not directly coupled to the spring-biased latch when the sulky is in a deployed position during normal sulky operation when the sulky is trailing behind the mower.

VELKE et al.
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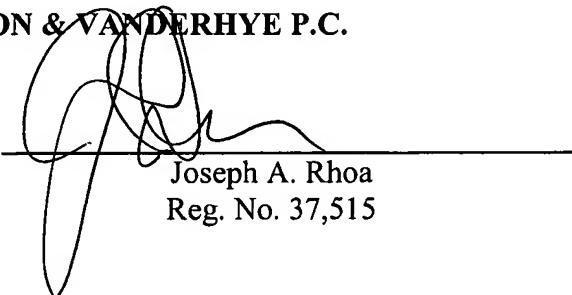
Bellis (US 6,488,291), cited in the Office Action, fails to disclose or suggest at least the aforesaid underlined features of claim 27. In particular, Bellis fails to disclose or suggest that “the protruding member of the sulky is directly coupled to the spring-biased latch when the sulky is folded up in a stowed position, but the protruding member of the sulky is not directly coupled to the spring-biased latch when the sulky is in a deployed position during normal sulky operation when the sulky is trailing behind the mower” as called for in claim 27. In Bellis, the alleged protruding member 54 is always directly coupled to the alleged latch 40, the opposite of what claim 27 requires. Thus, Bellis fails to disclose or suggest that the protruding member of the sulky *is not* directly coupled to the spring-biased latch when the sulky is in a deployed position during normal sulky operation when the sulky is trailing behind the mower as called for in claim 27. Bellis teaches directly away from the invention of claim 27.

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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